

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 11, 2006, Applicants request reconsideration of all rejections in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants wish to extend their appreciation to the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 31-39.

Claims 29 and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have cancelled claims 29 and 30, amending their subject matter into claim 20. Applicants submit that claim 20 and its accompanying dependent claims 21 through 28 are neither anticipated by or obvious over the references cited below and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 20, 21, and 23-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Koaizawa et al. (USP 5,897,682).

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koaizawa et al. in view of Schulte (USP 5,377,491).

Applicants have amended claim 20 to include the limitations of claims 29 and 30 and contend that these rejections are moot and are providing no comments thereupon. Reconsideration and reversal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims define patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. Prompt favorable action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned should any issue arise during the reconsideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip H. Von Neida", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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